

## Introduction

It may help in describing this strain of Flanagans to give a little background for the Irish migrations to America and the time frames in which they came about. The two major migrations occurred for different reasons and at different times. Both, however, were largely as a result of confrontations with the English where the Irish were treated poorly.

To understand the first migration which came in the late 1600s and early 1700s, it is necessary to start in Scotland. Northern Ireland in the 1500s and 1600s was a wild, undeveloped wilderness. English colonizers induced people from the Lowlands of Scotland to settle Northern Ireland with an eye to having those colonists operate the resulting farmsteads to provide a profit for the colonizers. The venture succeeded and by tight controls the profits from cotton, flax, and wool were optimized in their favor.

When the homesteads came up for renewal, the English again took advantage of the tenants by putting the homesteads up for renewal without regard for how they were developed. The colonists were now neither Scot nor Irish but a mixture of the two and maybe as much Irish as Scottish. This led to the term "Scotch-Irish" which was not often used in Britain. More commonly, the Scotch-Irish were known as Ulstermen, Ulster Irish, Irish of the North, Meer Irish, or sometimes the Wild Irish. There was even a Latin term, the Scoto-Hibernicus. Another descriptive name was the Irish Presbyterians.

The earliest migration was at the start of the 1700s and within the early part of that century. The Lowland Scots with four or more generations to become Irish or intermix with them had generated a unique persona and considered themselves a breed all their own. At first a trickle of Irish and then a flood of them migrated to America. A few came directly to the east coast but many came into the country through Philadelphia and then down the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia to the Carolinas and Georgia.

The second major migration was the result of the potato famine in Southern Ireland when some two million Irish people died of starvation and disease. It is a strange coincidence that the potato was a gift from America and when it failed as sustenance for the Irish was a factor in their coming to the new country. This second migration brought the biggest number of Irish to America and is probably the better known of the migrations since it was the latest, occurring in the mid 1800s. It also helps explain why the Irish have such strong resentment toward the English. At the time, Ireland was producing wheat and cattle to ship to England and instead of using some of it to keep the Irish alive, the goods were sent to England as it's due. Ireland started with about eight million people. Two million died and another two million migrated to America, now the United States. Ireland was left with four million people and has about that many people today.

By comparison there are some forty million people in the United States who can claim to have an Irish connection by name or by kinship. Many are found in the southern United States and are predominately Protestant. This faction may be descendants of the early